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COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
PO BOX 501370, SAIPAN MP 96950 • TEL (670) 237-3061 • FAX (670) 664-3845  
[www.cnmipss.org](http://www.cnmipss.org)



November 5, 2018

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PSS Recovery Updates**

**School Opening**

The Public School System (PSS) continues its collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Office of the Governor, Homeland Security, FEMA, and the American Red Cross. With the damage assessment completed, the focus shifts to restoring power and water to schools, cleaning campuses, fixing repairable classrooms, and identifying temporary facilities to ensure that all schools are operational as soon as possible for the students.

PSS maintains a conditional opening target for all Saipan and Tinian schools within seven weeks. As soon as a school is deemed safe and operational, classes will resume. The school year will be adjusted accordingly for each school based on the school resumption date. Some schools will implement a double session schedule with four hours of instructional time allotted for each morning and afternoon session.

Furthermore, some schools may need to relocate or share campuses. Temporary structures will be added to some school sites to accommodate the student population. Sufficient transportation resources are readily available to support these conditions. The public will be immediately notified of details as plans are solidified.

Public Schools in Rota currently continue normal operations.

**Withdrawals**

For parents or guardians of minors or students over the age of 18 wishing to withdraw from PSS, please visit the Office of the Commissioner of Education, located on Capitol Hill, Building Number 1211, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, beginning on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Withdrawals will be processed through this central location until further notice. See the map below for directions.

**Transfers and New Enrollment**

PSS is not entertaining transfer requests or permitting new enrollments until all schools within the district have resumed.

**Distance Education**

All branches of Distance Education are temporarily suspended. This impacts students currently enrolled in the Student eLearning Gateway as well as staff completing coursework through the Professional eLearning Portal. Information regarding the resumption of online coursework for students and personnel will be announced when plans are solidified.

**STUDENTS FIRST**

"All CNMI Public Schools are accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, an accreditation division of AdvancED."

## Shelters

Shelter residents continue to receive non-potable water that is delivered on a regular basis through the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Shelter residents are provided with meals three times daily by the American Red Cross. Drinking water is also made available daily. PSS has coordinated activities for the children living in the shelters, offering morning and afternoon opportunities. Provisions for Shelter Residents are jointly coordinated through collaboration with the Emergency Operation Center.

In coordination with partners, long-term shelters have been identified. Three PSS campuses are identified as follows: Kagman Elementary, Tanapag Middle School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will publish more information regarding the transitional plan for the long-term shelters.

## PSS Staff

190-day certified employees are not to report to work until further notice. All non-certified staff have begun reporting to work. In collaboration with FEMA, PSS is coordinating assessment of its personnel needs. More information will be broadcasted internally.

## PSS Hours

Until further notice, Central Office hours are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

## Additional Information

For information, please visit the Office of the Commissioner of Education, located on Capitol Hill, Building Number 1211 or call 664-3845 or email [info@cnmipss.org](mailto:info@cnmipss.org). You can also visit the CNMI PSS facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cnmipss/>.

## Public Advisory

The public is advised not to visit school campuses on Saipan and Tinian for safety reasons as continuing assessments, cleaning, and repairs are underway.

